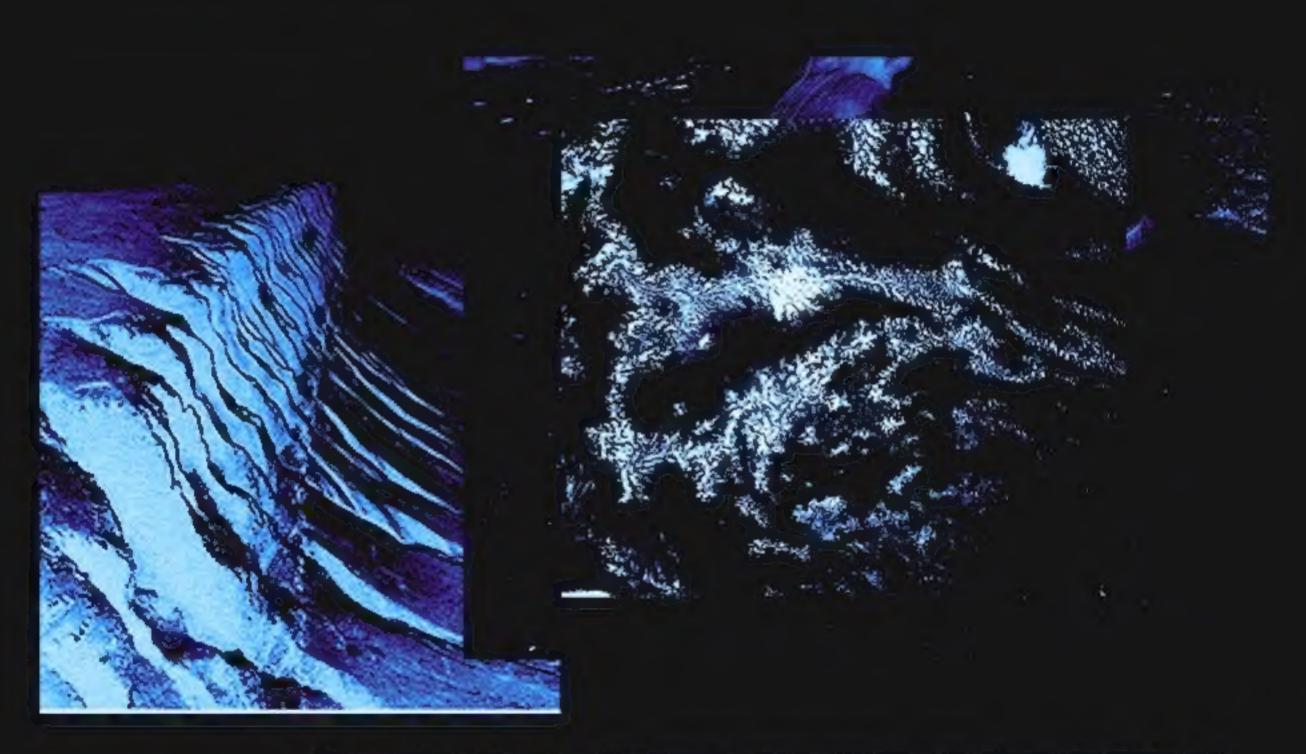




Her name is Wound. Rain bites acidic at bare skin, her camp at the edge of fown slow sliding into infirm soil. Serrated palms tremble above her, rust caught armatures creak. In the far distance- a dull hollow throb from vast machines, bleakly suturing horizon.

She shuffles back under tent cover.

Prays as great chains drag sun desperate past horizon. Landscape dissolves, shades from bruise to tar to pitch. Inside her tent, she's lighting candles, most short stubs, this far from home.



The morning, clouds pearly expanse, azure wounds, sun glimmering fishhooks.

A dolphin rotting on the beach, mouth full of jellyfish, tumbling out like jewels in the serrated light. At your back the town, drawn up into an inverse metal wavecrest. Sawgrass gagged by drifts of white.

Wavedrone slow coerces the rock/pebble/sand to leg spread corrosion

Ecstatic in degradation to base forms
Boots leave indents steady behind her
Down the shore a home raised holy on
glowing plexiglass pylon-legs, Her
grip trembles on sheath.

She's been warned of magic.

A thousand sun splinters chuckling across the waveforms- each a small resistance subsumed to greater peace.

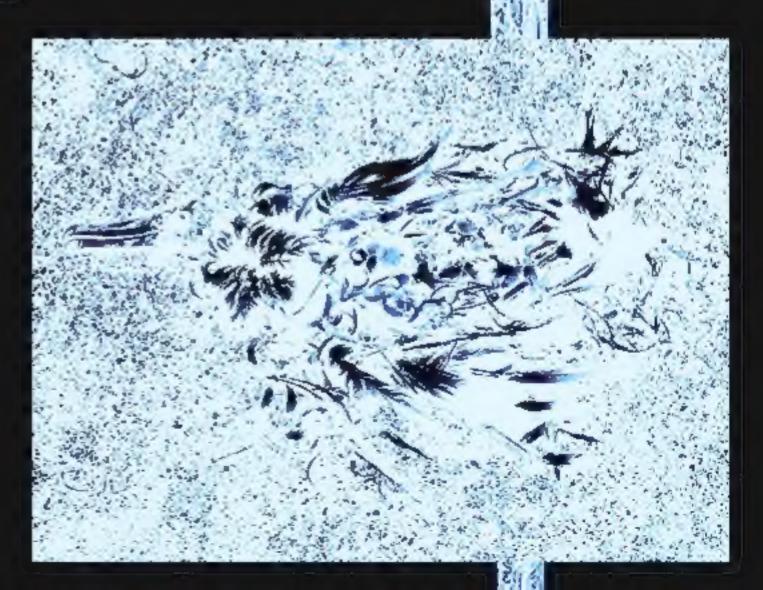
Like her, Not many things can lay that claim.

She passes small idols, offerings, plea/threat/warnings

Circles drawn in sand glow softly-

she gives wide berth.

A staircase coiled to tight spiral
Steps rainbow glimmering float
A cyclone of petals frozen allow
Ascent to witch house.
Notice below how pilings expand
Claw-like through the dunes.
Each step clink glimmer of sound
Rise circling.





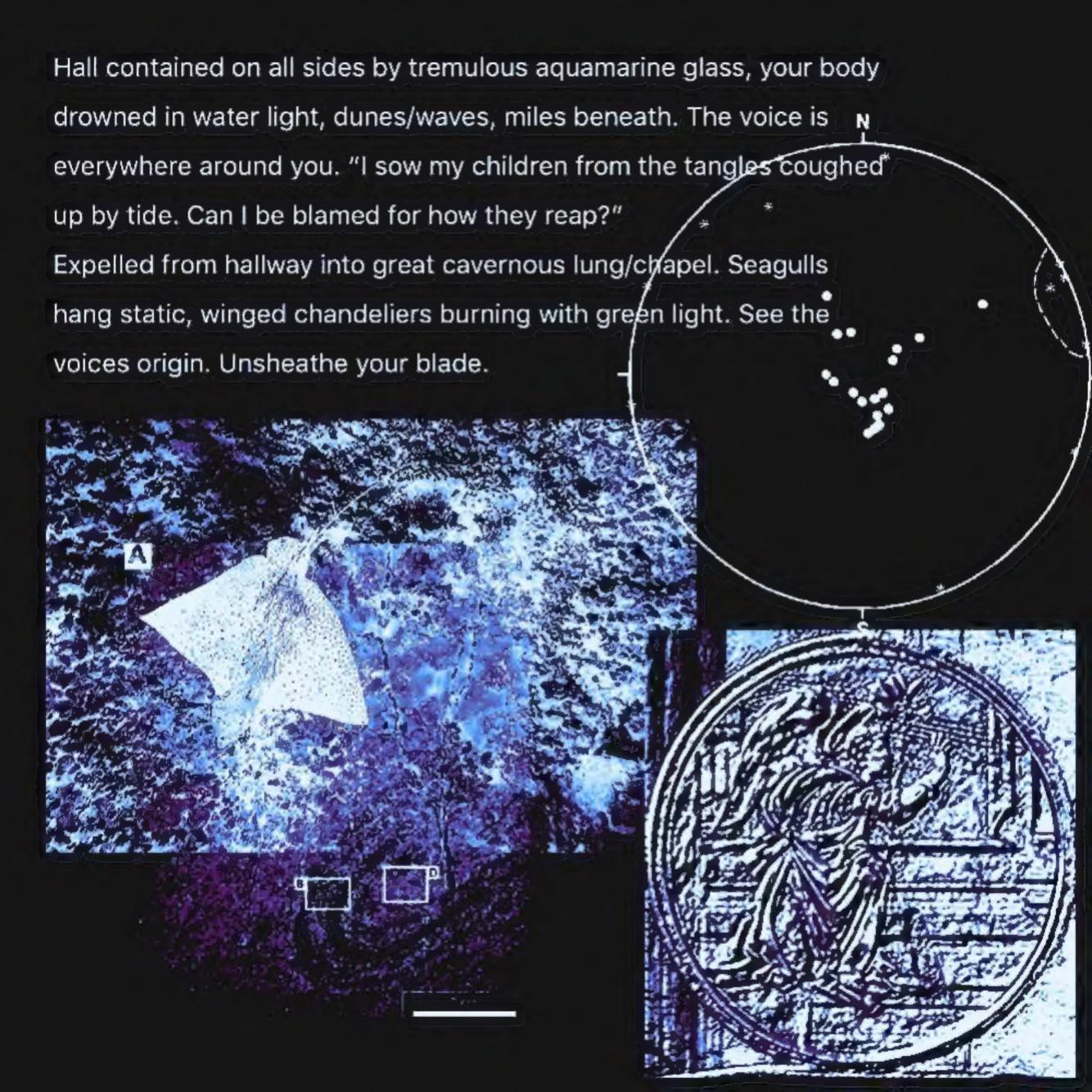
Against her chest, thump of amulets, chains, some glowing burnhot as she rises. Approach surely noticed. Lid flicker brings up ghostly imprints, glyphs curling incense through air. Glowing cages hang umbilical from house/ womb. Empty. Or- Lid flicker banishes cages, now writhing plant forms bound hanging she passes as they reach trembling. Hand caresses pommel.

At entrance/beginning/throat heavy wood swings wide, inviting heat. wind at her back insistent.

Voice like bowed glass-

"I coated tongues in salt, to better lick my wounds

Yet still they sent you" an antechamber lined with mirror teeth,
Catch flitting motion through them. A single arch leads to hallway.
Say prayer.



In that room. The witch- seething cyclone of pale drowned flesh. Walls, porous lung-coral, screamed by harsh draughts of wind. Witches' face a scaled expanse, corroded by gods breath. Iris, pupil, carved out. Light blooming savage from twin boreholes. Voice smoke swirling glyphs through the room. Blood blooming in water. Anemone tendrils blossom from copper bangled wrists. Matted shawl of oil clotted feathers, shining nacreous in the stained light. Wounds' saber darting, finds little purchase. Then-Ozonesharp pearl carved dagger Flutters through her stomach Leaves jagged rubyseep sigils Airrushed vacancies embraced





Lichen teeth shine resplendent victory

Grit teeth gasp, cherry bright smear cross sleeve. Inside coat pocket grab reliquary/hope.

No time to aim. Marrow ignites
a bright whisper
sends silver bruised shells spiraling towards witchflesh

Sit vigil over dying witchsong.

Exhalations writhe through flotsam throat cathedrals,

stained broken-bottle glass larynx

glowing with the vent heat of rattling breath.

Words embalmed upon incanted lips, subsumed under dead fish tongue.

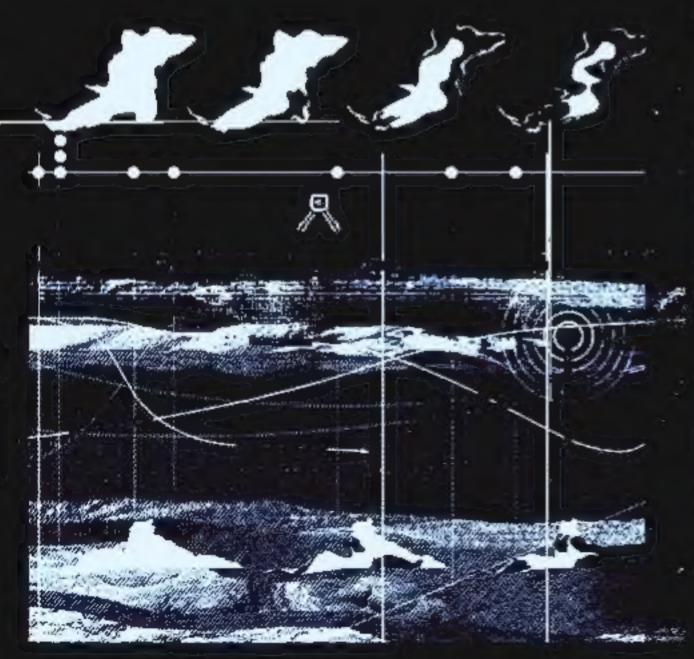
Witch house rots to ruin around you.

Will soon fall to the greed-licking waves.

Leave the corpse behind you.

Entrails oxidized holy.

From this I was born.



Brought forth from opal/womb,
From Mother-carcass, feasting
shoals of many-legged insects,
moving like wind-ruffled moss

I kill a greatvast sea-thing

Come to mourn my mother, my

Hands still sticky with her sap

Shave long thin curls of bone, I Fasten them above the doorway. In the air.

The doorway is all that's left.

